



May 1, 2001

Daniel G. Hobbs  
City Manager

The Honorable Mayor Alan Autry  
City Council Members

The budget presented to you represents a transition budget as we begin the first decade of the new millennium. It is a budget that maintains the basic City services and structures while looking forward to new opportunities to serve the citizens of Fresno.

The City is facing many challenges as identified in the Macias Group report. These challenges are neither new nor daunting, but represent opportunities to evaluate the services we provide and the manner in which we provide them. Prior to the issuance of the Macias Group report, steps had already been taken to develop and implement strategies to address certain areas mentioned in the report. This includes improving the working relationship between the administration and the Council.

Clearly one of the keys to success is working together to develop a long range strategic plan for the City. A work program is already underway to move us in that direction in the upcoming year. Staff will also work on implementing debt policies, performing a "budget scrub", and focusing on capital management.

It is time for the City to rethink how we do business and to evaluate the services we provide. To that end, a fiscal efficiency and effectiveness review will be conducted of all of our processes. This will enable us to identify which processes and services should be added, enhanced, or discarded. After this review is completed, the current system of continuous evaluation of services will be enhanced to ensure that City operations will remain effective and cost efficient. A critical element will be to support and empower staff while holding them responsible and accountable.

This budget includes the Mayor's commitment to youth by setting aside an additional \$1 million for youth activities. The activities include a skate park, initiation of the Fresno Games, a match for a youth golf program, enhancement to center city after school programs, and funds to match grants for art and other programs for youth. The spending plan continues to provide public safety at high levels. The commitment to downtown revitalization is reflected by setting aside funds for the infrastructure improvements associated with the downtown stadium. The budget continues to focus on neighborhood revitalization by making use of the comprehensive neighborhood improvement projects.

This budget reflects a new beginning for Fresno that is full of promise. That road will not be easy as we face external challenges such as the electricity shortages and rising fuel costs. Demands on City resources will continue to increase as we prioritize and implement the strategic plan that is developed. However, I am confident that working together we can move Fresno forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Hobbs  
City Manager

City of Fresno

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